MEMOIR

ON

Acupuncturation.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

http://archive.org/details/memoironacupunct00mora

MEMOIR

ON

ACUPUNCTURATION,

EMBRACING

A Series of Cases,

DRAWN UP

UNDER THE INSPECTION OF M. JULIUS CLOQUET;

BY M. MORAND,

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

PARIS, 1825.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH,

BY

FRANKLIN BACHE, M.D.

PHILADELPHIA:

PUBLISHED BY

ROBERT DESILVER, No. 110, WALNUT STREET.

Clark & Raser, Printers, 33 Carter's Alley.

1825.

WB
4586

Cordell
Hist
Coll.
F2M184
.M82
1825

ADVERTISEMENT

BY THE TRANSLATOR.

THE original of the present Memoir was put into my hands by my friend, Dr. Samuel Brown, late Professor of the Practice of Physic in Transylvania University, with a request that I would prepare a translation of it for the American medical public. I readily acceded to his wishes, believing, with him, that a short treatise on Acupuncturation, from the growing importance of the remedy, and the great attention bestowed upon it in France, could not fail to be an acceptable present to American physicians.

The present Memoir, after an historical introduction, proceeds to give an account of the manner of using the needle, and concludes with a number of cases, illustrative of its effects. Without going too much into detail, it imparts every requisite information, to enable any practitioner to employ the remedy.

Philadelphia, October, 1825.

MEMOIR

ON

ACUPUNCTURATION.

INTRODUCTION.

Acupuncturation, a remedy borrowed from the Medicine of the Indians, receives at the present moment general attention.

The academies and departments of Medicine, labour with a zeal and ardour, scarcely credible, to verify the new results of M. Julius Cloquet. At the same time, the most distinguished philosophers are multiplying researches and experiments, to explore the new road which has been opened to them.

The journals, appropriated to the publication of clinical facts, observed in the several hospitals, fill their columns with observations and reflections on this new method of curing diseases.

Even men of the world are not content to remain ignorant of this triumph of Medicine in our days: in

short, every where acupuncturation is spoken of; in the drawing room, as well as at the Institute. The enthusiastic physician hopes, by means of a needle, to combat diseases the most inveterate and rebellious. It will become, according to his views, *supremum contra omnia mala, remedium.*

Another, ingenious in building theories and creating systems, is persuaded, that he finds, in the phenomena exhibited, a satisfactory solution of questions the most obscure; questions, which have been agitated for centuries, and to which the attention of the greatest men have been directed for so long a time, and to so little purpose.

Others again, by whom incredulity is erected into a system, refusing to believe what is demonstrated in the most satisfactory manner, and filled with a proud disdain, resign, without previous examination, the practice of acupuncturation to the people with whom it originated.

But, happily, there are wise and enlightened men, true friends of science, who, silencing the voice of the passions, tranquilly meditate the observed facts. Disdaining the pomp of theories, and constantly fearing to stray from the right path, by entering the vast domain of hypothesis, they follow, with perseverance, the straight road of observation, note facts with scru-

pulous exactitude, and afterwards report them with a candour and good faith, but too rare in our days. It is to such men, that truly belongs the name of philosophers; it is to them that science and the arts owe all their progress. They are models for the imitation of young physicians, and the guides which I have chosen. Like them and with them, I wish to say:

Amicus Plato, magis amica veritas.

A pupil of M. Julius Cloquet, to whom the honour belongs of having revived acupuncturation amongst us, and of having made so happy an application of it in the treatment of diseases, I resolved to select this therapeutic agent, as the subject of my inaugural dissertation; to submit to my judges my opinions, and the observations, I have been enabled to make, as well at the hospital of St. Louis, and the Hôtel-Dieu, as at other places, where I have seen it put in practice in a great number of instances.

At the same time, while giving this simple exposition of facts, I am happy to have an opportunity of rendering homage to the merit of the young and learned preceptor, under whose auspices I enter upon the career which I pursue, and whose kindness and precious friendship I have constantly continued to enjoy.

DIVISION.

I shall divide my subject into three parts:

In the first part, I propose to make known what had been observed on acupuncturation, before the labours of M. Cloquet, comprising the experiments, observations, and opinions of the various authors, who have treated of this subject.

In the second, I shall give a description of the operation, noting with care the phenomena that present, and the theories to which they have given rise.

In the third part, comprising a series of cases, I shall speak of the diseases, against which acupuncturation has been employed, the parts on which it has been tried; and, finally, the results which its employment has furnished.

PART I.

DEFINITION.

Acupuncturation, *acupunctura*, derives its etymology from the Latin, *acus*, a needle, and *punctura*, a puncture. The operation consists in causing a needle, (without regard to the metal of which it is made,) to penetrate into some part of the body, either of man or animals.

If we seek to know, in a positive manner, the origin of acupuncturation, it will be found lost in the obscurity of remote ages. But if it be impossible to determine, at what epoch it was practised for the first time, we are, nevertheless, certain, that, unknown to the Greeks, Romans, and Arabians, it was employed from time immemorial in China, the country which we regard as the cradle of the world; and that the people of that country transmitted it to the inhabitants of the island of Coree from Japan. It is, says *Vicq-d'Azyr*, according to *Ten Rhyne*, very much employed in the last mentioned country.

It is to the latter author, and to *Kœmpfer*, that we owe the greater part of what we know on this subject.

Accordingly, it appears, that it is only within a century and a half, that the operation has been known in Europe.

But let us see, in what manner, and under what circumstances, the Chinese practise the operation.

The Indians, says *Kœmpfer*, employ two instruments in performing acupuncturation, namely, a needle and hammer. They give the name of *tentassi*, or *exploratores*, to the men, who know the places where it is proper to place the needles. As to those who practise the operation, they bear the name of *foritatte, jussa explorantis faciunt.* This means is so much employed, and they have so great a veneration for acupuncturation, that this class of physicians never leave their houses, without carrying their instruments. The hammer they employ, according to the author of the article *Acupuncturation*, in the Dictionary of Medical Sciences, is made of ivory; while, according to *Kœmpfer*, it consists of horn. One of its extremities is larger, rounded, and pierced with a number of small holes, similar to those which cover the surface of a thimble; it contains lead, enclosed in its interior, in order to add to its weight. The handle is long and hollow, for the purpose of containing the needles.

The needles are of two sorts. The first kind are about four inches long, and very slender, especially to-

wards the extremity intended to penetrate the tissues; while the other extremity is fastened into a handle, three inches long, rounded, shaped in spiral, in a word, like the thread of an elongated screw. The second kind are without handles: their length is the same as that of the first kind, and thickness equal to that of a harp string. No other metals but gold and silver are employed in the fabrication of these instruments, and no one in China is allowed to make them, without the special authorization of the sovereign.

With these people, the operation of acupuncturation is practised according to two different methods. In the first, the needle should be seized with the left hand, between the thumb and fore finger, supported by the middle finger, and then placed on the part intended to be pierced. The hammer being taken in the right hand, they give the needle one or two blows, to make it traverse the cuticle and true skin; after which, turning it rapidly between the fingers, they sink it perpendicularly to the depth of from half an inch to an inch, according to the part on which the operation is performed.

In the other method, the needle only is used, it being made to penetrate by the second manipulation above mentioned; in other words, by rotating it between the thumb and fore finger. The spot

chosen to place their needles, is that, in which the pain is most acutely felt. They often multiply the acupunctures, inserting at the same time several needles, always observing to leave an interval of an inch at least between them.

According to Kæmpfer, the time they are allowed to remain is very short; being equal only to the duration of an inspiration and expiration. The operation should be repeated, until the pain has completely subsided, being always careful to avoid lesions to the nerves, arteries, and tendons.

It is especially in combatting a very painful colic, called *senki*, that they have recourse to the operation. The description of this disease is too curious not to be given in an abridged form. It is endemic, and so common, that it is a rare thing to meet an individual, somewhat advanced in years, who has not suffered an attack of it. Strangers are not less subject to it than natives. The causes are stated to be the climate, food and drinks. The principal symptoms are very sharp abdominal pains, with swelling of the belly, spasms, and tenesmus. The patient is also affected with suffocations and convulsions. The sensation is such as might be supposed to be produced by the tearing of the tissues from the groin to the ribs. The pain experienced is analogous to that, which

would be produced by repeated thrusts of a poniard. Such is nevertheless the train of symptoms, which are made to disappear instantaneously by several needles, placed in the following manner:—One above the umbilicus, a second on a level with it, and a third below it. Others are often placed on the sides of the abdomen.

But how serious are the accidents, if recourse is not had to this remedy! The disease, after having produced long sufferings, gives rise to tumours upon the surface of the body, swellings of the testicles, suppurating fistulas, abscesses in the anus; and in women, suppurating tubercles, either in the vulva or groin.

If we consult Ten Rhyne, in how many other cases do we find acupuncturation praised. According to this author, the needle should not always be confined to traversing the skin, but made to reach the intestines, and the womb even in pregnant women. In no case, says he, do accidents occur. It is employed, with success, in all kinds of colic; in diseases of the head, and headache, both recent and inveterate; in soporose diseases, epilepsy and ophthalmia; in diarrhœa, cholera morbus, dysentery, and anorexia; in flatulent affections, hysterical paroxysms, lippitudo, incipient cataract, and coryza; in continued fevers,

intermittents, verminose affections and tetanus; in fine, in all convulsive diseases. These details, collected by Ten Rhyne, are to be found narrated by Vicq-d'Azyr. (Treatise on the Physiological Sciences, article on Acupuncturation.)

This last author makes four classes of the diseases, against which acupuncturation is proposed to be employed:

1st. Soporose affections; *Comata.*

2d. Convulsive affections; *Spasmi.*

3d. Pains; *Dolores.*

4th. Diseases attended by discharges; *Fluxus.*

In the same work, a description is given of a very painful colic, relieved by a single acupuncture. Vicq-d'Azyr has drawn this case from Ten Rhyne, and relates it as follows: A guard of the Emperor, after having performed a long march exposed to the sun, being tormented with an ardent thirst, drank with avidity, a very irritating species of beer, similar to the *Schnops* of the Germans. A short time after, he felt over the whole abdominal region, very sharp pains, together with tenesmus, and contractions. Acupuncturation being performed, he was not merely relieved, but cured immediately; and the pain never afterwards returned. Vicq-d'Azyr, who, as I have already mentioned, has written a memoir on

this subject, does not state that he ever practised the operation. He proposes to class it among irritants or stimulants. According to him, its action may be compared to that of moxa, blisters, and cups. They are deceived, says he, who assert, that a needle may traverse the womb with impunity; because, in operating, it is very difficult to determine to what point it may have reached, or to ascertain, with any degree of certainty, what organs may be involved.

Dujardin, in the first volume of his History of Surgery, gives a repetition of what may be found in *Ten Rhyne*, from whom nearly all the authors on this subject have borrowed. I have thought it proper, however, to note from this writer the following propositions:

1st. Acupuncturation succeeds perfectly in cases of pregnancy, when the fœtus, moving continually in the womb, (without regard to the cause of its movements,) occasions sharp pains to the mother. It is necessary, under these circumstances, in introducing the needle, to cause it to traverse both the womb and fœtus. By proceeding in this way, all possibility of accident is guarded against. The author does not state, whether it is through the vagina, or by pierc-

ing the walls of the abdomen, that the operation is to be performed.

2d. In feeble persons, it is most proper to practise the operation on the anterior part of the body, and on its posterior part in strong persons. This direction is evidently very vaguely expressed, and may be considered as unimportant.

3d. If the patient's pulse cannot be felt, the needle ought to be introduced in the vicinity of the veins. By this mode of proceeding, the arteries are liable to be wounded. It consequently appears, that the advice given to avoid these vessels is disregarded.

4th. In adults, the needle should be inserted to a greater depth than in children, or old persons; and in persons enjoying a degree of plumpness, than in thin persons.

5th. Finally, the needle ought to remain in the tissues, during the interval of time, occupied in the performance of thirty inspirations, and as many expirations. In the event of the patient's inability to support its presence for this length of time, the operation is to be repeated five or six times.

Upon reading Berlioz, (Memoir on Acupuncturation, published in 1819,) we find, not merely theories, and observations obscured by the night of time, but many practical facts, and verified and authentic results.

The success, which he announces, is so great, that it is impossible to explain the reasons, which have prevented a repetition of his trials. According to M. *Berlioz*, a needle, inserted to the depth of several lines, either removes immediately, or diminishes pain; and it is extremely rare for it to resist three or four operations.

I presume it may not be without its use to report the observations found in this work. The subject of the first is a young girl, attacked with a nervous fever, the consequence of a violent and prolonged fright. The disease had existed for two years. Treated by cinchona, the symptoms, far from being mitigated, were increased. A multitude of remedial agents were employed, but without success. The young patient was observed to waste sensibly. Not knowing how to oppose the disease, acupuncturation was proposed, and practised immediately. A very long sewing needle was employed, covered near its eye with wax. The young patient (for it was she herself that performed the operation) introduced the needle, at first perpendicularly, and then obliquely, through the parietes of the abdomen, over the epigastric region. From the moment the first puncture was made, the pains ceased, as if by enchantment, and the calm was complete. The paroxysm did not reappear this, or

the succeeding day. On the second day after the operation, slight traces only of the disease remained. To prevent the return of the fever, a new acupuncture was performed on the third day, and repeated once in three days, for the space of two months. At the end of this time, the remedy appeared to lose its effects by habit, and was resorted to oftener, namely, twice a day for six months. From this time, the disease was cured. But three months afterwards, there occurred a new attack of fever, when acupuncturation was again resorted to, and a new cure effected, which was now permanent. Dr. Berlioz states, that he employed, at the same time, preparations, containing opium. Accordingly, it may be asked, whether it was to the acupuncturation, that he owed the success, which he obtained.

The facts, which he afterwards details, appear to me far more conclusive.

A peasant, aged 40 years, had been afflicted for two months with a convulsive cough, attended with pain in the epigastrium. A milk diet, and the exhibition of opium had relieved him considerably. Nevertheless, walking, and especially exercise on horseback, produced much fatigue, excited cough, and gave rise to pains in the region above mentioned. A single needle, introduced into the epigastric region, and inserted suf-

ficiently deep to reach the stomach, caused a sudden disappearance of every symptom, and, what is more important, the cure was permanent. In this case, the needle remained but three minutes.

The case, which follows, is that of a man, who fell backwards from a height of 10 or 12 feet, upon stones, causing numerous contusions over the posterior part of the trunk. Placed on a bed, it was absolutely impossible for him to perform any movement. Eleven punctures, performed on the back part of the neck, enabled him to raise his head. The same operation, being repeated on the following days upon all the bruised parts, cured them very rapidly. The author of these observations recommends to have recourse to the needle, in every species of pain, whether rheumatic or nervous, and in intermittent fevers, at the moment of the paroxysm. He does not fear the lesion of the most important organs by the puncture. According to him, apprehension is injurious to the effect of the operation, and the number of needles is unimportant, not increasing the efficacy of the remedy: hence a single one is ordinarily sufficient.

Dr. *Berlioz*, however, was not content to report his success with this operation, but wished to ascend to its cause. He felt desirous of explaining the mode of action of the needle, and he does so in the following

manner:—It is not by substituting, for one irritation, another which is stronger, as has been advanced, that acupuncturation acts. For in no case is the success so marked, as when the introduction of the needle gives little or no pain. The remedy is a stimulant to the nerves, to which it restores a principle, of which they were deprived as an effect of pain. He concludes by proposing to charge needles with the electric fluid, with the view of rendering their action more powerful. He also employed two needles, made of different metals, connected together by means of a third. Their action did not give more favourable results.

These observations are doubtless very curious; but the following are not less so, drawn from the practice of M. *Bretonneau*, chief surgeon of the hospital of Tours, a practitioner, whose talents do the greatest honour to modern surgery. The facts, communicated to the society of Medicine by his correspondent Dr. *Haime*, have been given to me in a still more exact manner by M. *Velpeau*, formerly a pupil of M. *Bretonneau*, whose practice he follows with the zeal and ardour, which distinguish him at the present day.

A young female, twenty-one years of age, had been tormented for a long time with a continual hiccough. The affection having been treated by antispasmodics and revulsives, for many months, and always without

advantage, the surgeon of Tours, prompted by an inspiration altogether medical, thought of having recourse to the means so much cried up in China and Japan. Like *Berlioz*, he employed instruments, different from those in use amongst those nations. He took a steel needle, about 7 or 8 inches long, slender and very sharp, and introduced it, through the parietes of the abdomen, into the epigastric region, so as to reach the stomach. The pain produced by the introduction was far from being acute. The needle had hardly traversed the tissues, when the hiccough ceased. After remaining several minutes, it was withdrawn. No accident occurred, either during or after the operation. During the whole of this day, the disease did not recur; and it was not until twenty-four hours afterwards, that she felt it again. From that time, a new acupuncture was decided upon, and practised at the same point. This time, the needle was made to penetrate to a still greater depth, even to the vertebral column. The hiccough was suspended for the space of forty-eight hours. After these first successes, care was taken to persevere in the remedy, and very shortly, acupuncturation, at first only palliative, effected a complete cure. This fact is curious, not merely from the termination of the disease, but particularly because the needle had traversed, without the smallest acci-

dent, organs, whose lesion is considered mortal. Some doubts may be entertained as to the cause of this cure, when it is known, that the patient was influenced at the same time by moral causes; and that by just remonstrances, a termination was put to a habit, which she had contracted a long time before, (a circumstance not noticed at first) of subjecting herself to practices, equally inconsistent with morality and health. But the cessation of the hiccough was spontaneous; occurring as soon as the acupuncturation was practised. It was, however, only temporary, and the hiccough was only removed by new operations; while the discontinuance of the habit of the patient, could not produce advantageous effects, until after the lapse of a considerable time. So that, all that can be admitted is, that this circumstance hastened the progress of the cure, and prevented relapses.

Having penetrated the stomach, that organ, to which physiologists have attributed so exclusive an agency both in health and disease, M. Bretonneau wished to ascertain how serious the practice of acupuncturation might be to other organs, not less essential:—I mean the heart, the lungs, and the brain. He accordingly made experiments, which gave the following results.

Having taken six young dogs of a vigorous breed, he introduced a needle into the substance of the

brain itself. Causing it to penetrate at first by the anterior fontanelle, he directed it from before backward, as far as the occiput. Having withdrawn it almost immediately, he buried it under the inferior and anterior angle of one of the parietal bones, giving it a transverse direction to the opposite side, and then withdrew it, as in the first case. Three of the animals gave evidence by their cries, that they did not remain insensible to this new stimulus. The three others put forth no cry, and did not even seem to perceive it. None of the animals experienced any accident, as a consequence of the operation. The experiment was repeated many times, without producing any inconvenience.

The same needle was afterwards introduced into the animals, through the parietes of the chest, over the region of the heart, and sufficiently deep to involve this organ. That the experimenter attained the object proposed, was evinced by the circumstance, that, at each contraction of the heart, the needle underwent movements of elevation and depression, in correspondence with its systole and diastole. Three supported this new acupuncture without accident. A fourth sunk under its effects in half an hour. On opening the body, a little blood was found extravasated into the cavity of the pericardium. The fifth became drooping, and weak, and appeared unable to

survive. Having killed him, blood was found, as in the preceding case, in the pericardium, but in less quantity. In the sixth, the needle did not reach the heart, but the lungs were penetrated: the animal sustained no injury. There is every reason to believe, that, if very fine needles had been employed, similar to those made use of by M. *Cloquet*, none of these animals would have fallen victims to the experiment. After having penetrated the heart, the same practitioner pierced arteries of all calibres, without serious consequences in any one instance. Finally, his confidence became so great, that he did not hesitate, on his own person, to introduce the point of a very fine needle into the sides of the brachial and radial arteries.

M. *Bretonneau* had occasion also to resort to acupuncturation in a case of rheumatism of long standing, which disappeared in summer, but returned again, whenever the weather became cold or moist. This rheumatism had its seat in the deltoid, and extended over the whole of the posterior part of the shoulder, causing much suffering to the individual affected. Many remedies having been fruitlessly used, he employed the needle. It was inserted over the point where the pain was felt with the greatest intensity. The first introduction caused the pain immediately to

cease; but it recurred twenty-four hours afterwards, though much less acutely. Acupuncturation was again resorted to, and practised as often as the pain returned. Finally, when the remedy had been used seven times, the pain disappeared entirely, and the cure was complete. Whether it subsequently returned, I am unable to affirm.

These successful trials seemed to promise a frequent employment of the needle. The observations made were collected and reported, since when they have remained in obscurity. The sick profited by the benefits of the operation, and, as it too often happens in society, the benefactor was forgotten.

Two years ago, M. *Velpeau* repeated some of these experiments. He passed a very fine needle through the walls of the heart of a dog, and allowed it to remain for several minutes. The animal did not give any sign of pain. The needle being withdrawn, not the least accident occurred, and the dog lost nothing of his vigour. He was kept confined for several days, after which he made his escape.

I have seen a cat, whose chest was pierced entirely through, from one side to the other. The animal remains to this day full of life.

The author of the article *Acupuncturation*, in the new Dictionary of Medicine, M. *Béclard*, is far from

recommending the practice. He says, that, before studying the therapeutic agency of this singular operation, it is proper to ascertain with exactness, the effects of the puncture upon different parts of the body.

M. *Béclard* adds, that if the deepest punctures, even such as involve the viscera, do not always produce accidents; yet they give rise sometimes to very serious ones, and even to death itself.

The puncture by rotation, according to him, is less painful, and followed by fewer accidents.

Finally, he concludes with this expression. "Before having made any experiments with this operation, and before it came into use as a curative agent, I was sufficiently disposed to believe, that it would be best to leave it to its inventors. Experience has confirmed me in this opinion."

I acknowledge that I am far from sharing the opinion of this learned professor; and the facts, which I have recorded in the third part of this dissertation, are far from being in unison with his assertions.

PART II.

GUIDED, no doubt, by a knowledge of most of the facts which I have detailed, M. Julius Cloquet determined to revive acupuncturation, to verify the assertions of the authors, who had employed it, and to demonstrate, by a series of experiments, its advantages and inconveniences,—in a word, to ascertain the rank, which the operation should occupy among therapeutic agents; well satisfied that it could not be attended with much inconvenience, even though it might not possess all the virtues which have been attributed to it.

It was in the treatment of rheumatic pains, that recourse was had to the operation in the first instance. Having succeeded, even beyond his hopes, he multiplied his researches, which were rewarded with new successes. Soon afterwards, he used it in other diseases.

Being no less fortunate in these trials, and being placed on a proper theatre for extensive observation, (*the wards of Surgery and Consultation of the Hospital of St. Louis*), he practised acupuncturation in innumerable instances. But it was not enough for him to have his labours crowned with success; he desired to

mount to the cause. Shortly afterwards, he thought he observed phenomena, which had escaped the notice of his predecessors. After satisfying himself, that he was not deceived, he prepared a memoir on the subject, which was presented first to the Royal Academy of Medicine, and afterwards to the Institute.

The following are the fundamental propositions contained in this memoir.

1st. Acupuncturation acts decidedly on pains, without regard to their cause or seat.

2d. Some pains disappear without returning, while others reappear after a variable time. In the latter case, they are always weaker than before the operation, and may be removed again, by one or more new acupunctures.

3d. Some pains are diminished only, without being made to disappear entirely; while others are translated.

After demonstrating, that, in acupuncturation, the needle is charged with electricity, he concludes by asking, whether pain in any part does not depend on an accumulation of the electric fluid in such part; whether, in short, the proximate cause of all inflammation does not consist in the accumulation of the same fluid; and whether, by means of conducting wires,

connected with the needles, we should not augment the power of the remedy.

Having followed most of the experiments of M. Julius Cloquet, having seen acupuncturation practised a great number of times, and performed it myself, I propose to detail the facts, which have struck me as the most important, preceding this exposition by a description of the operation itself, and of the phenomena to which it gives rise.

In performing acupuncturation, M. Cloquet at first used a common sewing needle, the superior extremity of which, or that intended to receive the thread, was surrounded with sealing-wax, forming a small oval handle, to facilitate its introduction. Soon afterwards, he employed a needle, furnished with a little ivory handle, turned in the form of a lengthened screw, precisely similar to that described by Kæmpfer, and which is used in China, except that the needle was of steel. A short time afterwards, this instrument was modified by Professor Récamier. This professor caused needles to be made of different lengths, after which he mounted them on a species of port-stone, (porte-pierre.) The base of the needle is placed in a cavity, and retained there, by being pressed with a screw, which may be tightened at pleasure. Pressing on the head of the screw, this is made to mount or descend in a

groove, formed in one of the sides of the port-needle, by the same mechanism, by which the blade of a knife is drawn into, or made to protrude from, the handle. The needle being retained by the pressure of the screw, it may be made to protrude, or can be concealed, either entirely or in part, from the patient, on whom we are about to operate. When we wish to perform acupuncturation, we place the port-needle over the point intended to be punctured: then pressing upon the screw, the point of the instrument is made to penetrate the tissues, perpendicularly or obliquely, either with or without rotation. When it is judged that the needle has penetrated sufficiently deep, the screw is turned in the opposite direction. The base of the needle being no longer pressed, the port-needle may be withdrawn, to be subsequently employed in the same way. This method, certainly very ingenious, has the advantage of not intimidating the patient, and is suitable, when we propose to operate on timid persons; but it has the disadvantage of rendering the operation complicated, and at the same time longer, and therefore more painful.

The same practitioner has employed needles of gold; but as it is impossible to render them as slender and sharp as those of steel, without becoming too flexible,

I incline to the opinion, that it is best to reject them, and make use of those which we shall now describe.

Having remarked phenomena, which led him to suppose the accumulation of the electric, or some other fluid, upon the needles, during their insertion, M. Cloquet gave to the instrument the following form. His needle is composed entirely of steel, its length being different, according to the depth, it is proposed to penetrate. The degree of slenderness to be given to it, should be regulated by the importance of the organs through which it is to pass. One of its extremities, to serve as a handle, has the form of a very small olive, being rounded for the length of from three to eight lines, according to the length of the needle. Its diameter is about a line; and it is surmounted with a small metallic ring, intended to receive a conducting wire for the electrical or nervous fluid. The body and point are made as fine as possible.

The spot, where the instrument should be placed, is that in which the pain is most severely felt; but in case the nature of the tissues does not permit this, then the introduction should be effected at the nearest safe point. This general rule has but one exception, and that is furnished by the neuralgies, in which the neighbouring part is most proper for the operation. In the practice of acupuncturation, it is proper to avoid the

large nerves, as well as the joints, and although the experiments of M. *Bretonneau* may be very conclusive, it is prudent to avoid the perforation of arteries.

The part, into which the needle is to be inserted, being well determined, the skin is to be rendered tense; for if this precaution be omitted, especially in subjects, whose tissues are loose and flaccid, the integuments, becoming twisted round the needle, will render its introduction more difficult and painful.

The needle being held in the right hand, between the thumb and fore finger, is inserted perpendicularly, and afterwards obliquely, according to the indications presented by the disease, and the nature of the tissues; at the same time executing a movement of demi-rotation. It is important not to penetrate beyond the part which is the seat of the pain; for observation has demonstrated to the surgeon of St. Louis, that the operation will be attended with less beneficial results. It is especially in muscular rheumatisms, that it is important to attend to this rule; and rather than to pass it, it is incomparably better that the painful muscle should not be reached; for then the remedy would have the same efficacy, or very nearly so. If the directions I have given, are followed, the insertion of the needle will scarcely give pain. Being once inserted, a series of phenomena will be very soon ob-

served, for a knowledge of which we are indebted to M. Cloquet. The pain ceases to be felt, though this does not happen constantly. In some instances, the original pain, or to speak more properly, the morbid pain, ceases also.

This event, however, is not the most usual; but it is only after the lapse of a longer or shorter time, that the pain is observed to diminish or cease entirely. If we approach the finger to the part of the needle, which is external, and touch it slightly, nothing will be perceived. The skin is sometimes elevated round the instrument, preserving its natural colour; soon afterwards it sinks, and a red areola, of an erysipelatous nature, is found to form. The time, at which this last is produced, is far from being uniform. Sometimes it occurs in five or six minutes after the introduction of the needle; sometimes not until after an interval of two or three hours; and, again, in other cases, it does not make its appearance at all. The patient next feels pricking sensations, referred to the point of the needle, muscular contractions, numbness following the course of the large nerves, and agitations in the small fibres. All these phenomena are far from being constant; neither do they occur at the same time.

It is not unusual, at this moment, to observe per-

spirations, covering the part of the skin, corresponding with the organ, which is the seat of pain. Sometimes, though more rarely, the sweats are general. The pain ceases from that time, or is diminished; or otherwise translated, or carried back, diminished in intensity, to some place, more or less distant from the needle. It is also about this time, that syncopes sometimes occur, more or less completely formed, and of variable duration; and this indeed is the only accident, I have observed to happen in the employment of this curative agent. The occurrence of these syncopes, it appears to me, cannot be caused by the pain, produced by the puncture, as it does not happen, until all painful sensation has ceased. I therefore suppose, that there must exist some other cause. Struck with a reflection of M. *Récamier*, made when employing the aspersion of cold water in an ardent fever, that he practised a bleeding of caloric and electricity, I ask, whether the needle does not act as a true lightning rod, introduced into the system; whether, in a word, it does not charge itself with the electric fluid. I communicated this view to M. Cloquet, and he has adopted it; but still it remains to demonstrate its justness, and support it by facts; for, until then, it is merely an hypothesis; and there is much difference between mere probability and truth.

The truth of this hypothesis was proved by M. Cloquet in the following manner. Having inserted a needle into the thigh of a patient to the depth of an inch, about six minutes afterwards, at the time of the formation of the areola, he touched the body of the instrument. Having previously wet the end of his finger with saliva, he perceived, after a few minutes, a slight shock, similar to that produced by the conducting wire of a very weak voltaic pile. At every new touch, the patient complained of severe prickings, and darting pains, proceeding from the point of the needle. If the touch was repeated too often, the sensation was no longer distinct, doubtless because the needle had not time to charge itself anew. By waiting a few minutes, the same effects are reproduced. I repeated this experiment, and was soon convinced that I was not the dupe of my imagination; for, in some instances, the shock was sufficiently strong, to produce a slight numbness in the finger employed. Professor *Récamier*, to whom I mentioned these results, did not appear surprised, and determined immediately to experiment. He placed two needles in the lumbar region of a patient, at the distance of about two inches apart, and to the depth of about fifteen lines. The individual was affected with muscular rheumatism. Six minutes after their introduction, having touched the needle

first inserted, the shock appeared to him quite distinct, and was equally so to several students present. Others, to whom the sensation was not equally evident, either from prepossession, or from their nervous sensibility being less, without denying the fact, refused to admit it. It was proposed to place a small body on the feather of a quill and present it to the needle. A very small piece of paper was employed, which, when at the distance of half a line, flew to it, and afterwards turned round; at least it was supposed to do so. The trial was then repeated, and with the same result. But in the progress of time, the presence of a fluid became demonstrated by much more conclusive experiments. An electrometer was employed in the presence of Professor Pelletan. The instrument was defective, and the presence of any fluid was not manifested; and had it not been for the perseverance of M. Cloquet, the existence of a fluid, which is now so well demonstrated, would have continued to be denied.

The trial was, therefore, repeated, and, employing a very sensible electrometer, the existence of an electric fluid was placed beyond doubt. But is it certainly the electric fluid, or is it not rather the nervous fluid, as it is denominated by M. Cloquet? Finally, if it be the electric fluid, is it positive or negative? These are questions, which have not yet been answered.

MM. Pelletan, Pouillet, Edwards, and many other physicians are now occupied with this subject, and, perhaps, will shortly instruct us on these points. M. Béclard, who has made some experiments, says, that, if we insert a very fine metallic wire into any part of the body, provided the other extremity is brought in contact with a moist substance, galvanic phenomena will be produced. For example, if you plunge a metallic wire into the upper part of the thigh, and the other extremity be brought to the mouth, a moist surface, electricity will be developed, and the current will pass from below upwards.

But if we form an electrical circle,—for example, if we insert one extremity of the needle into the upper part of the thigh, while we make the other extremity penetrate its lower part,—then it becomes completed on one side by the arc of the wire, and, on the other, by the thigh. Electricity becomes disengaged, but we are ignorant in what direction the current takes place.

M. Pouillet, who, as we have already mentioned, is occupied on this subject, after having recognised the presence of electricity, inquires whether the development of the electrical fluid is not due to some other cause than the contact of the metal with the living tissues. According to the observations made by M.

Cloquet on the oxidizement of the needles, a chemical effect verified by this learned natural philosopher, this circumstance is an essential condition to the production of electrical phenomena. To satisfy himself on this point, he employed needles, which oxidize very difficultly, or not at all (needles of platinum). He inserted them in the tissues, and not obtaining a disengagement of the electric fluid, was finally confirmed in his opinion.

The same natural philosopher, supposing that the nerves might be considered as electrical conductors, and that their action on the living system was due to electricity, metallic bodies being the best conductors, wished to interrupt the current. For this purpose, he plunged a brass wire into the spinal marrow of an animal, in the cervical region, and the other extremity into the lumbar region; but no electrical phenomena were obtained.

M. Cloquet has remarked, as the result of experiment, that the action of the needle would be more prominent, if connected by its base, with one extremity of a conductor, the other extremity being plunged into liquid muriatic acid, or a saturated solution of muriate of soda. Indeed, when he has proceeded in this way, I have observed the action of the needle to be more prompt, the pain experienced towards its

point being more pungent. Sometimes it has been necessary to withdraw for a moment the conductor, and even the needle, to calm the shooting pains, felt by the patient.

This series of experiments naturally leads to this reflection: does the disappearance or diminution of the pain, which is observed, depend upon the withdrawal of the electric or nervous fluid, or does the cause remain unknown?

If I adopt the opinion of M. Cloquet, the question will be answered in the affirmative; for, according to him, there is neither disappearance, nor diminution of pain, without a subtraction of fluid; and it is in conformity with this explanation, that he has laid down this proposition, (under a form, it is true, expressive of doubt), that pain, as well as inflammation, have for their cause, an accumulation of the electric or nervous fluid, in the organs in which they have their seat.

It will be perceived that this proposition has a very extensive bearing.

But Professor Pelletan affirms, according to his experiments, that the action of the needle on the economy is entirely independent of electrical phenomena, or of oxidizement; for, upon employing instruments of platinum or gold, equally beneficial results were obtained from acupuncturation. The practice of the Chinese

comes in support of this opinion; for nowhere is acupuncturation more employed, or more highly thought of than in China, and yet all their instruments are made of gold or silver. M. Cloquet has himself made use of needles of silver, and I have not observed that his practice was less successful.

If, upon introducing the needles into the tissues, they are put in connexion with the conductors of a voltaic pile in action, the patient experiences a more pungent pain; but after some time, it diminishes, when the pile has ceased to act, and then commonly disappears.

But let us leave, for the present, these various opinions, and continue the description. When it is thought that the needle has remained a sufficient time, which varies very much, according to the affection, it is withdrawn. At first, M. Cloquet withdrew the needles as soon as the original pain, and that produced by the instrument, had ceased. But, at present, experience has taught him, that it is much better to let them remain a longer time. Accordingly, he has allowed them to remain eight, ten, and twenty-four-hours; and, finally, in many diseases, forty-eight hours. Afterwards, he withdraws them, very often to be replaced by others.

The extraction is generally more painful than the

introduction; especially if the needle has remained a long time, or has been charged with the electric fluid by aid of the pile. No blood is drawn; yet sometimes I have seen one, and even many small drops, ooze out. If we now examine the needle, it has undergone a very evident change; its colour is no longer the same. If it has remained but a short time, its point only is oxidized: the remainder of the surface which had been in contact with the tissues, presents concentric layers of oxidation, separated by spaces, in which the natural colour is still exhibited. But if it has been inserted for a long time, the oxidation takes place over its whole surface; and this will be much more considerable, if the pile be employed. The nature of the tissues, and the intensity of the pain appear to create some difference. In proportion as the part is more painful, or naturally endowed with greater sensibility, so will the oxidizement be more evident.

This oxidizement explains the cause of the painful sensation experienced when the needles are withdrawn; for, having lost their polish, they irritate the parts, already very sensible, and whose sensibility is still further increased by their presence.

If we wish to employ the same needles again, it is necessary to rub them well with emery paper. By

this means, the oxide is rubbed off, and the polish restored.

Having performed acupuncturation on the dead body, I allowed the needle to remain about an hour. Upon being withdrawn, it was not in the least oxidized. I afterwards heated the part in which I inserted the needle; it was now oxidized, but very slightly.

Such then are the phenomena, which I have remarked, or which are to be observed, during the operation of acupuncturation. Let us now pass to the examination of the results obtained by its employment.

PART III.

This part of my dissertation having for its purpose to make known the circumstances, under which it is proper to employ acupuncturation, as well as to indicate its advantages and accidents, I have thought, that I could not better fulfil it than by a statement of facts; for, *facta potentiora verbis*.

CEPHALALGIA.

Case I.

A——, a young man, twenty-five years of age, very irritable, was affected, on the 24th of January, with strong mental agitations. Obliged to make several journeys during wet and unwholesome weather, he found himself considerably fatigued, and felt breaking pains in the limbs, and a very violent pain in the head, especially over the frontal region. I inserted one needle in this place, which I caused to penetrate ob-

liquely under the skin to the distance of about an inch: the introduction was hardly felt. An hour afterwards, the cephalalgia had disappeared, and nothing remained but a slight sensation of weight. The needle was allowed to remain three hours; upon withdrawing it, a small drop of blood followed. The patient was forthwith completely cured. The cephalalgia has not returned.

I remarked upon withdrawing the needle, that it was completely oxidized.

Case II.

I had experienced, for several days, a heavy pain in the head. The pain, having become much more acute, deprived me of sleep. Being desirous of proving the effects of the needle on myself, I introduced one, with a hesitating hand, into the temporal region. I acknowledge, that, notwithstanding the intensity of the original pain, I felt very sensibly that produced by the instrument, which did not penetrate to a greater depth than several lines. A short time after its introduction, I felt a species of quivering towards its point; my head appeared to be less heavy, but the pain did not cease entirely. Nevertheless, I was much re-

lieved; sufficiently so, to enable me to read, or to occupy myself with objects, which fix the attention; but three hours afterwards, the pain returned more violently than at first, and at the end of two days, disappeared, as usually happened, without recourse to acupuncturation.

I attributed this pain to the state of the atmosphere, and to my remaining in a very warm room.

Eight days afterwards, being again attacked with a cephalalgia, even more violent than the first, I resorted again to acupuncturation. The pain was felt more particularly on the sides of the head. I inserted a very fine needle in the left temple, in an oblique direction, to the depth of an inch. The introduction was hardly felt. After the lapse of an hour, the pain had disappeared. The needle was allowed to remain ten hours, and, when withdrawn, was much oxidized.

The cure was permanent; nothing remaining but a slight heaviness, which continued for twenty-four hours.

HEMICRANIA.

Case I.

J——, aged 40 years, entered the hospital of St. Louis, on the 18th of December, for insupportable

pains, on the right side of the head, extending to the ear on the same side. Formerly affected with syphilis, of which she had been cured, the patient has had on the forehead, two nodes, which had suppurated, and of which the cicatrices were still evident. To these nodes, succeeded the hemicrania, of which we are speaking. The pains being unceasing, the patient was deprived of sleep, and suffered from derangements of the digestive functions. Acupuncturation was tried on the 6th of January. The needle was inserted obliquely to the depth of 8 or 10 lines in the temple of the affected side. Being left for two hours, it was withdrawn very much oxidized. Relief was experienced, as soon as the needle had penetrated the tissues, and continued after it had been withdrawn. The patient slept very well the following night, an occurrence which had not happened for a long time: the next morning, the pain had disappeared. This woman remained until the 14th of January, when, not having experienced any new attack of the complaint, she left the hospital, the cure being considered complete.

Case II.

A woman, named Ménard, entered the hospital of St. Louis, on the 22d of December, for the purpose of being treated for a venereal affection, which had existed for three years. She had already undergone many courses of medical treatment, but they had all been incomplete.

The patient had experienced for several days past, violent pains in the head, especially on the left side, (pains which she had often felt before,) attended with want of sleep, loss of appetite, inquietudes, heat in the skin of the temple and forehead, and acceleration of pulse.

On the 5th of January, the operation of acupuncturation was performed. The needle was inserted obliquely into the temple on the affected side, to the depth of about an inch, and allowed to remain about two hours. From the moment the needle traversed the tissues, the patient ceased to suffer.

The pain had not returned up to the 22d of January.

NEURALGIA.

Case I.

The subject of this case was a young man, strong and of good constitution. He had experienced for many years, very acute pains in the superior part of the head. They were superficial, and seemed to exist between the hairy scalp and the bone. The least touch on the hair produced a painful sensation. The patient was unable to assign any cause for the affection. Having consulted M. Cloquet about the end of December, a needle was placed upon the painful spot, and introduced obliquely under the hairy scalp, where it was allowed to remain for an hour. Almost as soon as it had penetrated, the pain ceased, and nothing remained but a heaviness. The next morning, the acupuncture was repeated. Although the pain had not returned, he still had this time some relief; nevertheless the heaviness, of which we have spoken above, still continued. The individual, considering himself cured, did not return. Fifteen days afterwards, the original symptoms reappeared, but with less force. After having suffered for fifteen days, without employing any remedy, he returned. A needle was now placed as before, and allowed to remain for twenty-four hours. The success was not less striking

than in the first instance. For five days, the acupuncturation was continued, the needle being changed every day. From this time, all symptoms disappeared, the young man experiencing no other suffering than that produced by the needle.

The cure appeared to be complete on the 28th of January.

Case II.

H——, aged about twenty-six years, a domestic, living near the Bicêtre, had suffered, for two months, from very acute pains along the course of the sciatic nerve. These pains extended to the leg, where they were equally severe, and followed the direction of the fibular nerve. This man, having presented himself at the consultation of the Hotel-Dieu, three needles were inserted, one in the upper and external part of the thigh, another, two-thirds down the thigh, and the third, in the external part of the calf of the leg. Their introduction appeared to cause much suffering. Shortly afterwards, he felt shooting pains, very acute prickings, and dragging sensations, proceeding from all parts of the limb, and converging to the points of the needles. In a quarter of an hour, he was affected with syncope, but soon recovered. The needles were

allowed to remain three-quarters of an hour, after which, they were removed. The patient experienced no relief, and went away in the same state as when he came, except that he was very weak. This patient has not returned.

Case III.

Peter Oudia, about forty-seven years of age, formerly a soldier, strong and robust, never having had any other diseases, but wounds, and a venereal affection, which was well treated and completely cured—was affected, in September, 1821, with very acute pains, especially during the night. They were seated in the right inferior extremity, extending from the sacrum to the toes, following always the course of the sciatic nerve. The patient experienced a very evident sensation of cold in the limb. The pains were constant, attended with exacerbations, and very violent cramps. He attributed the disease to fatigue and exposure to cold and wet. Liniments of oil with ammonia, had been prescribed in the beginning, but without success. Not being able to walk, or to supply his wants by labour, he entered the Hotel-Dieu. Two bleedings in the foot, and two in the arm, were prac-

tised, very little blood being drawn each time. Tepid baths were employed as co-operating remedies; but their effects were not advantageous, being followed by no abatement of his pains. This method of treatment was laid aside, and recourse was had to blisters, applied in various places, along the course of the sciatic nerves; but without good effect. The pain became even more violent. Not only the patient could not walk, but he experienced more acute pains than before.

It was now determined to try whether the extract of nux vomica would succeed better. It was given perseveringly in large doses, but the result was far from corresponding with the benefit expected. The patient had convulsions and vomitings, and was brought to a state analogous to that caused by drunkenness, being stupid, with heaviness of head; but without any alleviation of the original pain. Having quitted the Hotel-Dieu, he placed himself in the hands of empirics. A woman induced him to take fifty-two purges in sixty days. His frame proved sufficiently robust to withstand so incendiary a course of treatment. By his account, he was a little relieved; but shortly this supposed relief ceased to be perceived, and he was obliged to return to the hospital. Galvanism was now tried; but his condition was not improved. Fi-

nally, having come to St. Louis, two needles were inserted, over the sacrum, on the 5th of January, 1825. They penetrated about an inch, and were allowed to remain an hour. The pain disappeared, and afterwards returned in the knee. Five days afterwards, two other needles were inserted obliquely into the sides of this articulation, and allowed to remain two hours: the pain disappeared again; but shortly returned in the ankle joint. This part was then treated as the knee, two needles being introduced, and allowed to remain three hours. As soon as they were inserted, the pain disappeared.

The patient having still felt slight attacks for several days, five needles were successively introduced in the direction of the sciatic nerve. Since the 24th, he has felt nothing but a slight trembling; he sleeps very well, and begins to walk, although with great difficulty. There is, nevertheless, reason to believe, that exercise will be sufficient to restore him to the use of his limbs.

MUSCULAR RHEUMATISM.

Case I.

The young man, who is the subject of this case, is fifteen years of age, very lively, strong, and robust.

He had suffered under very acute pains in the back part of the neck for nearly eight days. Pressure on this part was painful. He could neither turn his head to the right or left, nor raise or depress it without suffering.

A needle was placed upon the painful point, and introduced to the depth of an inch. The pain produced by the acupuncture was far from being acute. Ten minutes afterwards, the areola formed, and the pains disappeared. The needle was removed at the end of three-quarters of an hour. The pains have not reappeared. Having examined this young man, the morning after the operation, I saw him perform all the movements, which it was impossible to execute the night before; and nothing remained of the affection but a slight stiffness. (Consultation of the hospital St. Louis.)

Case II.

M——, a student, aged about twenty-four years, strong and robust, suffered from very acute pains in the posterior part of the neck. These were not continual, but occurred when the weather was cold, afflicting the patient for three or four days, sometimes even

for eight, and afterwards disappearing without treatment. When present, they are sufficiently acute to prevent sleep, and constrain considerably the movements of the head. Pressure is but slightly painful. At a moment when the pains were strong, I placed a needle an inch above the spinous processes of the cervical vertebræ, and inserted it to the depth of about an inch. The introduction was very painful. While it remained in, the patient complained of very acute pricking sensations at the place of its insertion. The areola appeared at the end of fifteen minutes. The needle was withdrawn in forty minutes, its removal being not less painful than its insertion.

The pain ceased, but returned in the course of several hours. The patient, thinking that he had paid too dear, for the momentary relief obtained, in the pain caused by the operation, was unwilling to resort to it a second time. The pain continued.

This case was recorded in December.

Case III.

A man, strong and robust, 28 years of age, entered the Hôtel-Dieu, to be treated for very acute pains, situated in the deltoid muscle, and which were propa-

gated to the muscles of the arm. The pains were constant, without any general inflammatory action, and had existed for the last three weeks. Professor *Récamier*, persuaded that acupuncturation was suited to this case, performed the operation. Two needles were inserted, one in the centre of the deltoid, the other towards the external edge of the triceps, to the depth of about an inch. The introduction was but slightly painful. Almost immediately afterwards, the patient was entirely free from pain. The needles were withdrawn, after remaining inserted three-quarters of an hour. The pain has not made its appearance since.

Eight days afterwards, the patient left the hospital, being considered cured.

Case IV.

A woman named Ranci, forty-eight years of age, a patient at the Hôtel-Dieu, had been afflicted, during the course of her life, with a great number of diseases, and for the last three years had suffered from very acute erratic pains. These had been treated by bleedings, both general and local, cups, baths, fumigations, and uniformly without success. The pains were felt

strongly in the direction of the vertebral column. Two needles were placed in the muscles of this part; and, being allowed to remain about an hour, no relief whatsoever was obtained. The operation was not, at this time, repeated. But fifteen days afterwards, the pain having been translated to the deltoid region, a needle was inserted towards the inferior angle of the muscle of that name. It was allowed to remain an hour, and, upon being withdrawn, the pains had become more acute. From that time, acupuncturation was abandoned.

Case V.

A washerwoman, named Giraud, forty-four years of age, entered the hospital of St. Louis, on the 9th of November, for the purpose of being treated for a rheumatism, seated in the muscles of the arm. The pain was felt more especially towards the point of the deltoid. This pain, which was very acute, had existed for eight months, and had resisted local bleedings, as well as cataplasms, vapour and water baths, and blisters. No evident relief was even obtained. On the 3d of January, a needle was inserted in the middle of the deltoid, to the depth of about an inch, being

slightly inclined from below upwards. It was allowed to remain two hours. Whilst it remained inserted, the pain was less, and the relief continued after it was removed, the patient being able to move her arm, what she had not been able to do for a long time. Six new acupunctures were afterwards performed on different parts of the arm. After the third operation, the pain had left the rest of the arm, and become seated exclusively in the deltoid. The two last acupunctures were performed on this part, without any relief. The needles were then inserted for eight hours, after which the patient was allowed to rest for eight days. On the 21st, a new operation was performed, the needle being allowed to remain thirty-six hours. Some relief was experienced, but there was not obtained the success, which the first trials seemed to promise. Nevertheless, the repetition of the operation gives reason to hope for a favourable result.

Case VI.

In the latter part of December, a young officer, belonging to the garrison of Paris, came to the consultation of the hospital of St. Louis, to solicit relief for a very acute pain, which he felt in the right thigh and

leg. The pain, which had existed for several months, had, without question, been induced by exposure to cold and humidity. It was seated in the external part of the thigh, and extended to the calf of the leg. The officer walked with much difficulty. A needle was inserted in the place where the pain was felt most acutely. The introduction was not very painful, and the areola was a long time in forming. A quarter of an hour after it was inserted, he felt a very intense pain in the spot occupied by the instrument, and shootings and tremblings, proceeding from the calf of the leg towards the point of the needle. Shortly afterwards, the uneasiness became general, and the face pale, and finally the patient fainted. The needle being immediately withdrawn, cold water was thrown on the face, and the patient exposed to a very cold air, and shaken, to recall the sensibility and circulation. He remained more than twenty minutes in a state intermediate between syncope, and his natural condition. Finally, we succeeded in bringing him to himself, and rendering him sufficiently strong to enable him, after the lapse of an hour, to regain his barracks on foot. The operation relieved him but very little; for, although his pain was a little diminished, yet I conceive, the diminution ought rather to be attributed to a modification of sensibility, caused by the syncope

that occurred. In the course of ten days, the pains had disappeared gradually, and the patient found himself entirely well.

Case VII.

A married woman, forty-one years of age, strong and robust, had suffered for about two years from pain, seated in the muscles of the back part of the thigh, and those of the leg. The pains were nearly constant, depriving her of sleep, and equally severe both night and day. Atmospherical changes exerted a great influence. When the weather is tempestuous and moist, she suffers most, and is unable to walk without a stick; and even now she does not walk without much difficulty. The affection had been combatted by local bleedings, cups, and baths, but all without success. I proposed to her, on the 6th of January, the day on which I saw her for the first time, to make trial of a slight operation. My proposal being acceded to, I inserted a large sized needle in the superior and back part of the calf of the leg, burying it perpendicularly to the depth of about an inch and a half. Notwithstanding the size of the needle, its introduction was but slightly painful. The

areola was very soon formed. The patient experienced shooting pains, and a sensation of drawing seemed to proceed from the thigh and foot, directed towards the point of the needle. The original pain had already disappeared, but a fainting fit supervened, attended with paleness, general debility, dejection, and diminution of pulse. The loss of sense was not complete, and a few drops of fresh water, sprinkled on the face, removed this slight accident, of which, in a short time, no trace remained. The needle having remained three-quarters of an hour, I withdrew it, the point being very much oxidized. The patient no longer felt any pain; she rose from her seat, and, at first, was afraid to support herself upon the limb, which had been the seat of the disease. No longer perceiving any pain, she laid down her stick, and walked with much ease. Nothing remained but a slight stiffness in the part. Having requested the patient to return, if the pain should reappear, and not having seen her since, I am led to believe that she is entirely cured.

Case VIII.

A woman, named Pion, seventeen years of age, a patient at the Hôtel-Dieu, delivered eight months be-

fore, had been affected with an inflammation of the abdominal viscera, which was treated by the frequent application of leeches. The patient left the hospital two months after her admission, imperfectly cured, still experiencing constant pains in the abdomen. These pains having become more acute, she returned to the Hôtel-Dieu, in the following state:—tongue slightly red at its point; respiration painful upon taking a deep breath; belly swelled, and painful on pressure; appetite not impaired; pains increased by abstinence; digestion easy for every species of food; thirst moderate; bowels affected with looseness. The patient was put upon gummous drinks. During the first days of January, the patient having been seized with a very acute pain in the shoulder and left arm, sixty leeches were applied, without procuring any relief. Several days afterwards, the pain continuing, recourse was had to acupuncturation. The operation was put in practice twice, at intervals of four days, two needles being employed each time. The first were placed, one near the point of the deltoid, the other, two inches below it, both being inserted to the depth of about an inch. The introduction appeared to be painful. The patient experienced a numbness in the arm, and a sensation of heat near the point of the needles. Five minutes afterwards, a very evident relief was obtained,

which lasted forty-eight hours. After this time, the pain returned, but with less intensity. Two other needles were now inserted, one on the inside of the arm, the other on the outside, but to a less depth than the first.

The pain was this time almost entirely removed. Some hours afterwards, it disappeared completely, and continued absent for six days; at the end of which time, it began to be felt again, but in a very slight degree. Its intensity having increased a little, a blister was applied to the arm, but it gave no relief. The first needles were allowed to remain inserted for two hours.

The abdominal pains having increased, it was decided, on the second of February, to insert two needles in the iliac regions. They were made to penetrate to the depth of an inch and a half. Immediately afterwards the pain ceased. The needles were withdrawn, after having been allowed to remain seven hours. Their insertion and withdrawal appeared to be equally painful. Since this time, the patient has felt no pain, and pressure, heretofore so painful, produces to-day, (4th Feb.) not the least uneasy sensation.

The looseness has neither been increased nor diminished. During the time the needles remained inserted, the patient experienced some slight feverish symptoms.

Case IX.

A woman, named Dumaroi, an upholsterer, fifty years of age, entered the hospital of St. Louis, on the 18th of November, to be treated for rheumatic pains. This woman, forced by her condition to work in cold and moist situations, after having past a night in the vast apartments of the Tuilleries, was seized with pains, which invaded successively the different parts of the body. They soon became fixed in the right leg, afterwards in the thigh, and finally in the buttock of the same side. Moderately painful at first, they afterwards increased to such a degree as to render walking impossible. The remedies first employed, were a blister, and camphorated liniments, but without effect. Fumigations were then had recourse to, but, far from obtaining any mitigation, the pain became more acute. Sedlitz water was administered internally. When the patient laid down, the pain disappeared. In the last half of January, acupuncturation was tried. Three needles were inserted at the same time, to the depth of about an inch; one near the ankle, another in the thigh, and the third in the middle of the buttock. Almost immediately, there arose around the first, a button-shaped eruption. The needles were allowed

to remain for three days. The pain disappeared twelve hours after their introduction, the patient feeling nothing in the limb, except a sensation of stiffness and constraint.

Eight days afterwards, having experienced a new attack of her disease, but in a different place, (the loins), two other needles were introduced, one in the lumbar region, and the other under the great trochanter. An eruption occurred round one of the needles, as in the first instance. The pain was removed, as after the first acupuncturation, and at the present moment, walking causes only a slight feeling of fatigue.

The patient has left the hospital cured.

Case X.

A married woman, named Constance Vial, thirty-six years of age, had always enjoyed good health, and been regular in the catamenia, when, within the last two months, she has felt very acute pains in the soles of the feet. Shortly afterwards, these parts became swelled and very painful. The swelling and pains invaded successively the ankle, knee, and hip joints. The pain was so severe in the last mentioned part,

that it became necessary to apply leeches. It disappeared in this part, only to manifest itself still more severely in the other joints mentioned. Emollient cataplasms were now applied, but produced but little relief. Twenty leeches were then applied upon each of the affected limbs, being distributed on the joints. Twenty-four hours afterwards, the patient felt nothing but a little numbness, and was able to walk. In the course of a day, this numbness ceased, but the hands became affected with swellings, which extended to the arms. On the 15th of January, a new application of twenty-five leeches was prescribed, which, on this occasion, produced no relief. On Tuesday, the 25th, the patient having been sent by M. Magendie, acupuncturation was employed. At this time, her hands were very much swelled over their whole surface. The contact of any body caused her to put forth cries. Upon making pressure, the impression of the finger remained. Two needles were introduced obliquely, between the skin, and the ligaments found at the back part of the wrist joint. Their introduction was hardly felt. Being allowed to remain about two hours, no immediate effects were produced. Nothing was observed but a diminution in the swelling. The next day, the 26th, the pain ceased. On the 27th, acupuncturation was again employed, for the same space

of time. From this moment, the patient felt nothing but a little numbness, and even this went off the next day. At present, she has recovered the free use of her hands.

Case XI.

Curtel, twenty-seven years of age, a servant, strong and robust, after having fatigued himself a great deal, had a swelling of the knee, attended from the first with very acute pain. Obliged to walk, notwithstanding the pain, for the last six months, the swelling increased, and the lameness became very considerable. It was especially above the patella, that the pain was seated. He remained for four months, without doing any thing, only avoiding to walk as much as possible. The progress of the malady forced him to enter the hospital of St. Louis, where he was admitted on the 22d of December, 1824. As soon as he came in, without having recourse to other means, acupuncturation was employed. Two needles were inserted, and made to penetrate obliquely on the sides of the patella. The patient experienced no pain on their introduction. Being allowed to remain from an hour and a half to two hours, they were withdrawn, and the pain and

swelling found to be a little diminished. The operation was repeated five times in five days, the needles being always allowed to remain for the same period. The patient experienced some relief each time, but less than after the first operation. The ward in which he was, having changed physician, the needle was no longer employed. Blisters were now resorted to for eight days, but without any benefit. The patient felt a strong desire, that recourse should again be had to acupuncturation.

SPONTANEOUS LUXATION.

Case.

Autefeuille, eighteen years of age, born at Melun, and bearing the marks indicative of health, resided in a moist situation. She had commenced, about two years before, to experience very acute pains in the left hip joint. The complaint continuing constantly to increase, the young woman, no longer able to walk, and obliged to keep her bed, had recourse to the advice of physicians. Leeches, cataplasms to the painful part, and emollient baths, were tried in vain; for nothing appeared to arrest the progress of the disease. The limb first lengthened, and afterwards grew short-

er, from the occurrence of its luxation. The head of the femur was carried upwards and outwards, and, acting as a foreign body in its new situation, caused a violent inflammation. Being combatted by the remedies just indicated, it at first yielded a little; but afterwards the patient had no respite from her sufferings. Admitted into the hospital of St. Louis, now four months, cups were frequently applied, but with little relief; and the antiscrofulous treatment, with rest and cataplasms, was prescribed. In spite of all these means, the pain continued, when, on the 15th of December, about six weeks ago, acupuncturation was tried, behind, and about an inch under, the great trochanter. In ten minutes, the areola formed, and the pain disappeared. The needle was allowed to remain about two hours; after which, upon its being withdrawn, it showed traces of oxidizement. The pain, which had ceased during the operation, did not return for several days. The operation was repeated five times, in five days. The patient has not experienced any attacks of the original pain, except within the last fifteen days; and they are much less sharp, and only manifested, when the attempt is made to walk, and even then they are hardly to be felt.

CONTUSION OF THE PECTORAL MUSCLES WITH HÆMOPTYSIS.

Case.

A man, above sixty years of age, strong and robust, having a strongly developed muscular system, was struck and thrown down. His body presented contusions in several places, but pain was felt most severely on the right side of the breast. He breathed with the greatest difficulty, and expectorated blood in considerable quantities. A physician, called in, prescribed twelve leeches upon the right side of the thorax, under the arm. The patient was relieved, and ceased to spit blood, but continued to have a very great difficulty in breathing. Wishing to obtain relief, he applied to the consultation of the hospital of St. Louis, fifteen days after the accident. On the 20th of December, he was in the following state:—pungent pain in the right side; respiration painful, short, and frequent, the ribs scarcely rising or falling; cough slight, and expectoration free from blood; pressure on the internal extremity of the pectoralis major is attended with pain; pulse, strong, full, and regular; skin free from heat. A very long needle was inserted under the nipple, over the most painful point, and made to penetrate nearly two inches, so as to reach the pleura, or even

the lung itself. From the moment the needle was inserted, the relief was manifest; the patient ceased to suffer, became easier in his respiration, and, to avail myself of his own expression, we had relieved him of a weight. Pressure produced no further pain. The needle, after remaining three-quarters of an hour, was withdrawn. The patient was merely relieved by the first operation; but six other acupunctures, performed in the space of ten days, freed him entirely from the complaint. It is here worthy of remark, as is most generally the case, that the effect of the operation was not subsequently so prominent, as on its first trial.

PLEURITIC PAIN WITH HÆMOPTYSIS.

Case.

B——, twenty-two years of age, of a lymphatic temperament, married about three years, and mother of a healthy child, occupying a damp ground floor, was taken with a swelling in the ganglions of the neck. The engorgement was neither large nor inflammatory. Six months before, this woman had been attacked with pretty sharp pains in the knee joint. The part shortly after swelled, and became red, and the pain increasing, she found it impossible

to walk. Twenty leeches were applied, and emollient cataplasms prescribed. These remedies gave some relief, and the glands of the neck disappeared in the course of several days, without any obvious cause. Almost immediately afterwards, sharp pains were experienced in the right side of the chest, attended with short and difficult respiration. Pressure upon this part of the thorax was attended with much pain, and the patient could not lie upon the affected side. The patient had cough attended with pain, and the expectoration was streaked with blood. The skin was hot, and the pulse accelerated. Twenty-four hours after the appearance of the first symptoms, acupuncturation was put in practice, by inserting, perpendicularly, a single needle, under the right nipple, to the depth of fifteen lines. The introduction was hardly felt. As soon as the needle was inserted, the pain diminished. In five minutes, the areola formed, after which the pain disappeared, and freedom of respiration was re-established. After remaining a quarter of an hour, the needle was withdrawn without pain to the patient, and found but little oxidized, and that only near its point. In half an hour after the withdrawal of the instrument, the pains returned, but only to disappear at the end of five minutes. Subsequently, there was no spitting of blood, no difficulty of breathing, in

short no symptom of remaining disease. Mucilaginous drinks were prescribed, and a light diet. The cure was immediate, and the disease did not return. On the same day, this woman, so afflicted before the operation, returned to her occupations. The relief was so prompt, that, naturally credulous, she supposed it to be the effect of witchcraft.

CHRONIC OPHTHALMIA.

Case I.

Vitala, an embroiderer, forty-two years of age, has always been regular in the catamenia, and enjoyed good health. For about five years, she has had a constant weeping from the eyes, and a slight irritation at the edge of the eye-lids; when, about ten months ago, she was affected with acute ophthalmia, which passed into a chronic state, liable to be converted into the acute form, under the influence of the slightest exciting causes. Since this time, the disease having progressed, the eye-lids have become red, everted, and deprived, for the most part, of the eye-lashes, and the conjunctiva very much inflamed, the impression of light being extremely painful. Having presented herself at the hospital of St. Louis for advice, about

ten days ago, (15th of January,) two needles were inserted, one in each temple, and allowed to remain for twenty-four hours, being, at the end of that time, immediately replaced by others. This plan was pursued for four days, after which the needles were allowed to remain forty-eight hours. From the commencement of the treatment, the disease has always been on the decline, and, at the present day, the inflammation has almost entirely disappeared, the impression of light being no longer painful. This woman has not interrupted her daily labours, or employed any other curative means.

Case II.

A man, named Schneider, twenty-two years of age, of a lymphatic temperament, following at present the trade of a shoemaker, but formerly that of painter on porcelain, has been affected with an ophthalmia, which has existed for more than four years. The edge and internal surface of the eye-lids are red, and the vessels of the globe of the eye, very much injected; while the impression of light and shining bodies is painful. The slightest deviation in diet is sufficient to re-excite the state of acute inflammation. Treated repeatedly with

resolutive collyria, the intensity of the symptoms, by these means, was diminished, without effecting a complete cure. Having presented himself, on the 22d of January, at the consultation of M. Cloquet, a needle was inserted obliquely in each temple, to the depth of nine lines, and allowed to remain for twenty-four hours, after which they were withdrawn. The inflammation was found sensibly diminished. Two other needles were made to replace the first, and allowed to remain for the same space of time. The affection, making rapid improvement as the cure approached, recourse was had exclusively to prolonged acupuncturation. In the fifth operation, the needles were allowed to remain forty-eight hours, and to-day, (January 29th,) the cure is almost complete. During the course of the treatment, no accident occurred; the patient having felt nothing, except a slight itching towards the internal angle of the eye, in the same spot, in which the inflammation began to abate. The presence of the needles was so slightly inconvenient, that Schneider has not, for a moment, been taken off from his habitual occupations.

Case III.

A woman, named Frances-Henrietta, twenty years of age, had contracted a running, two years before, the consequence of an impure connexion. It had continued for two months, and then disappeared, during the administration of astringent drinks, by an empyric. For six months, this woman remained, to all appearance, completely cured. But after this time, she felt the most violent pains in the whole of the left side of the head, and in the corresponding eye. These were constant, totally depriving her of sleep, and causing the most frightful agitations. Two months afterwards, she felt a very acute irritation in the left cheek; and shortly after, this part was covered with a crust, resulting from the concretion of the fluid, which exuded from the irritated spot. The affection made very rapid progress, and proceeded, in the course of a few days, to affect the eye-lids. At this time, she was admitted into the hospital of St. Louis, being in the following state:—her face was disfigured by the herpetic eruption, of which we have spoken. The scab was entirely surrounded with a circle of a purplish-red colour. The left eye, very much inflamed, could not support the contact of light, and exuded a very abundant puriform matter, more espe-

cially during the night. The pains were felt over the whole anterior part of the head. They were constant, but much more acute during the night than the day, and prevented the patient from tasting the sweets of sleep. To combat this affection, general and local bleedings, blisters, a seton, pediluvia, and purgatives were all employed without effect. Two anti-venereal courses were resorted to, but without the least amelioration to the patient. Wishing to try the effect of acupuncturation in so obstinate a pain, M. Julius Cloquet inserted a needle in the temple of the affected side, and allowed it to remain for an hour. The pain disappeared entirely, and from that moment, the patient was enabled to resign herself to sleep, what had not occurred to her before, unless when worn out by fatigue and watchings. The pain reappeared fourteen or fifteen hours afterwards, but in a less degree. The second day after the operation, a new one was performed. The needle was allowed to remain two hours; and the relief was not less marked, the pain disappearing entirely. Since then, she has felt it anew, but much less severely. During the space of a month, the operation was not repeated; but after this time, on the 15th of January, *persistent acupuncturation* was resorted to. The needle was allowed to remain, being renewed every three or four days. The

eye is now able to support the light; there is no more redness or puriform secretion; and the tetter itself is found to improve very much, and contracts considerably. Doubtless acupuncturation cannot remove the existing venereal affection; but, in the present instance, it has the merit not only of arresting its progress, but also of diminishing the local affection. (At the present moment, (12th of February,) the tetter has completely disappeared, and the patient experiences no pain.)

PERIODICAL HÆMATEMESIS.

Case.

A woman, named Duperier, twenty-nine years of age, having been affected about nine years before, with a very violent moral commotion, immediately after the flowing of her courses, was suddenly attacked with hysteria. From this time, the menses have not appeared; but they are replaced by a periodical vomiting of blood, lasting generally three or four days, and accompanied with very sharp pains in the epigastrium.

Antispasmodics, and preparations of cinchona, had been used, but without affording relief. The only measure that has improved the symptoms, was the employment of sinapised pediluvia.

Admitted into the Hôtel-Dieu on the 29th of January, the periodical vomiting appeared on the 31st. Twelve leeches were prescribed to the vulva, and forty to the epigastrium; but the vomiting continued, and the pain of the epigastric region underwent no mitigation. On the 2d of February, acupuncturation was put in practice. Two needles were inserted, one in the epigastrium, the other near the umbilicus, to the depth of an inch. Immediately upon their introduction, the pain and vomiting ceased. They were allowed to remain two hours. An hour after they were withdrawn, the vomiting reappeared, but the habitual pain was considerably diminished. This patient found herself much better.

UTERINE PAINS.

Case I.

A woman, named Dujardin, twenty-seven years of age, strong and robust, having contracted a running

eighteen months before, had allowed it to proceed for seven months without any treatment. Aware of her disease, and driven to despair, she determined to destroy herself, and, seizing a razor, inflicted a dangerous wound on herself in the neck. Carried to the Hôtel-Dieu, she was cured by the attentions of the skilful surgeon of that hospital. Since then, she has had various affections, which caused her to remain. The treatment of these affections not coming within the province of surgery, she was transferred to the wards of M. Récamier. It was then that she made known, now six months since, the cause that led her to commit so reprehensible an act of despair. Being affected with syphilitic ulcerations in the internal part of the labia, the anti-venereal treatment was prescribed and continued for three months. The chancres were cured, but the running continued. Astringent injections were then tried for three weeks, and afterwards baths of the vapour of cinnabar: the running now stopped; but, upon the baths being suspended, it reappeared as abundant as at first, staining the linen. At this time, the patient began to experience very acute pains in the region of the womb, attended with shootings, prickings, and a sensation of continual burning. Her sleep was disturbed. She always had a febrile disposition towards evening; her digestion

was bad, and, during the process, her pain was more acute. Towards the latter end of December, a long needle was inserted, to the depth of two inches at least, in the sides of the vagina. The patient scarcely felt the insertion of the instrument, which was allowed to remain for an hour and a half. She did not experience any relief while it remained. The pain became even more acute upon the withdrawal of the instrument, which was much oxidized; but shortly, it diminished gradually, and at last disappeared. The patient was for six days entirely free from pain; but the discharge continued. After that time, the pain returned, but less violently than at first. The operation has not been repeated, the plan of treatment by cicuta and baths of the vapour of cinnabar being preferred. This new treatment has relieved her only in a slight degree.

Case II.

A woman, named Adelaide Colin, thirty-five years of age, following the occupation of a cook, had enjoyed, until the age of 32, a good state of health, notwithstanding her first menstrual discharge had been established

with difficulty, and she had experienced much uncomfortable feeling. From this time, the catamenia had always been regular and abundant, announced, however, by abdominal pains, but not sufficiently strong to disturb the functions. Having experienced a violent fright three years before, at a time when the menstrual flux existed, it became suppressed instantaneously. Soon after, shooting pains made their appearance in the womb, propagated to the hypochondriac regions, and the abdomen swelled. The catamenia have not since reappeared. This girl was attacked, several months afterwards, with hysteria. A volume would not suffice to detail her disease from this period. She had vomitings of blood, a diarrhœa which lasted several months, a very violent pneumony, very strong pains in the head, which afterwards became directed towards the back; but the point, to which a very sharp and constant pain was always directed, was the womb. All the other symptoms appeared to originate from this organ: all the functions were deranged. Her state, for three years, has never been the same for eight days successively. A single symptom only was constant; namely, the uterine pain; and yet repeated attentive examinations discovered no lesion of the uterus. This woman, whose case I followed for more than a year, at

St. Louis, in the wards of M. Lugol, entered successively at St. Antoine, and the Hôtel-Dieu, where she has been for the last six months, in the wards of M. Récamier. The reader may form some idea of the complication of this case, by noting the different treatments to which the patient was subjected. At St. Louis, general and local bleedings, cold baths, sixty and more spout-baths, antispasmodics of all kinds; tonics, purgatives; emetic tartar, in doses of ten and twelve grains, repeated frequently; but every thing without success. Since she has been at the Hôtel-Dieu, thirty-three bleedings have been practised; she has undergone a mercurial treatment to the extent of salivation, suffered six moxas to the internal parts of the labia, and two on the dorsal region, used the caustic, preparations of cicuta, and many other remedies; but all without any useful result. Certain local symptoms were diminished, but the catamenia were never made to appear; neither was the uterine pain mitigated, a pain so acute, that it was characterised by the patient as resembling the constant *gnawing of a dog*, tearing the tissues. Towards the end of December, acupuncturation was put in practice. Three long needles were inserted into the sides of the vagina, to the depth of about one and a half inches, and allowed to remain an hour and a half. The introduction was

by no means painful. The needles were no sooner introduced, than the pain which existed in the uterus, and thence extended over the whole of the abdomen, loins, thighs, and even the knees, ceased immediately. Upon withdrawing them, they were found to be entirely oxidized, and covered with rust. An unusual oozing of serosity from the sides of the vagina was now produced, all painful sensation disappeared, and the patient enjoyed a tranquil and refreshing sleep, an occurrence which had not taken place for a long time; for previously, she had slept for some moments only, when worn out by pain and watching. She regained her appetite and strength, was enabled to get up, and became gay; in short, her whole existence was changed. She remained for six days in this satisfactory state. It is proper to remark that acupuncturation was not repeated. After this time, the uterine pains began again to be felt. Moderate at first, they gradually increased, but never regained their former intensity. The treatment was afterwards confined to preparations of cicuta, when, on the first of February, the patient had a considerable difficulty of breathing, a general œdema of the body and thighs, a copious vomiting of pure blood, and, in short, was in such a state as indicated the near approach of death. On the morning of the 2d, three needles were inserted; two below

the base of the breast, one on each side, under the cartilaginous margin of the ribs, and the third, below the xiphoid cartilage; all to the depth of at least an inch. The immediate consequences were, cessation of the uterine pain and vomiting, facility in respiration, and a general improvement in feeling. The introduction of the needles was hardly felt. After having remained eight hours, they were withdrawn in an oxidized state. The next day, the 3d, I saw the patient, gay and pleased, having slept well, and feeling herself altogether in a satisfactory state. The œdema had not disappeared, and there remained some degree of tenderness in the abdomen. Two other needles were inserted as before, but upon the sides of the umbilicus. Being left for the same space of time, they were withdrawn, very much oxidized. The abdominal pain ceased to be felt, and nothing remained, but a feeling of dragging in the groins. No doubt, care will be taken not to neglect the use of the needle for the future.

Several journals have made mention of a blind young woman, restored to sight by acupuncturation. As a history of this truly interesting case will shortly be published by M. Roger, resident student of M. Alibert, (a young physician, who had for a long time lavished attentions on her,) I shall confine myself to giving merely some notes upon it.

Case III.

Miss Lise, nineteen years of age, very irritable, possessing the temperament, called *nervous*, had, two years before, been brought under the influence of very violent grief, during the time of the menstrual flux. She was then seized with convulsions, which lasted more than an hour, and left her in a diseased state. From this time, her catamenia have not appeared, and her health has undergone a change. She has experienced, successively, various inflammations of the thoracic and abdominal viscera, and suffered very acute and constant pains in the side of the head. It was reasonably conjectured, that, in the midst of this disordered state of all the functions, the uterus, the primitive seat of the disease, did not remain inactive. The patient had felt, almost constantly, acute pains in that part. She was affected successively with spitting and vomiting of blood, abdominal pains, with swelling of the belly, looseness, obstinate headache, and finally pains which pervaded all parts of the body. All these morbid symptoms were accompanied by frequent attacks of hysteria. Notwithstanding the application of seven hundred and eighty leeches, the employment of twelve general bleedings, caustics, sinapisms, pediluvia, and the use of many medicinal preparations, in-

dicated by the various conditions of the patient, the catamenial flux could not be re-established, the suppression of which was, unquestionably, the cause of the train of symptoms, by which the patient was affected. On the 10th of November, upon coming to herself, after an attack of hysteria, she found herself deprived of sight, and plunged in profound darkness; in a word, her blindness was complete. Headaches, more violent than ordinary, were all that was felt during the preceding days. On examination, the globe of the eye presented no appearance of alteration. Many means were tried ineffectually to restore the sight, such as bleedings, laxatives, derivatives to the intestinal canal, and revulsives; but I repeat, every thing was fruitless. The success of acupuncturation multiplying to a great extent, in a vast number of diseases in the hospital of St. Louis, M. Roger had recourse to it. On the 5th of January, three needles were inserted, two in the temples, and the third in the forehead, and allowed to remain an hour and a quarter. The pains were somewhat diminished; but otherwise, no change occurred. On the 24th, the needles were again employed, remaining as in the first instance, and inserted obliquely to the depth of an inch. The effect was still the same. On the same day, two other needles were employed, which were, this time, allowed

to remain inserted for twenty-one hours; but no favourable influence on the organs of sight was produced by the operation. Indeed, on this same day, a light was approached to the patient, without its being perceived, until detected by the heat, to which it gave rise. On the 26th, two acupunctures were again practised at nine o'clock in the morning, the needles being withdrawn six hours after. The sight now returned as suddenly as it had disappeared, and without the manifestation of any extraordinary phenomena; and this youthful patient, who had been plunged in darkness for seventy-six days, was, at the instant, astonished at the unexpected sight of surrounding objects. It is impossible to convey an idea of her enthusiasm and delight. Since this time, she has been able to read the smallest print; and at the present moment, I have in my possession, a little journal on the subject of her complaint, in her own hand-writing. The other morbid symptoms, such as pain and swelling of the abdomen, &c. were combatted by acupuncturation, performed on the regions affected. Yesterday, the 6th of February, the catamenia made their appearance, and although her constitution has been undermined, hopes of preserving her life should not be abandoned.

CONCLUSION.

From the observations which I have detailed, and especially from the multitude of facts I have witnessed at the hospital of St. Louis, where acupuncturation is practised every day on more than twenty patients, I think I am borne out in the assertion, that this operation possesses great therapeutic powers; that it not only may, but ought to be employed in rheumatic affections, and neuralgies; that, moreover, it succeeds very well in the treatment of many diseases, belonging to the class of phlegmasia, and that it has been censurable that this curative means has remained so long neglected.

But how does the needle act? Is it by subtracting the electric fluid, or is it by derivation, or revulsion? This is a problem, which I do not attempt to solve, believing it far preferable to doubt, than fall into error. It is at least certain, that it has a powerful modifying influence on the sensibility of the organs. I do not range it, as Vicq-d'Azyr has, after moxa and cups. Its action is altogether different. It possesses nearly all their advantages, without their inconveniences;

and, very often, has been known to succeed, after moxas had been used without effect.

Acupuncturation may be easily practised on all parts of the body, and is not painful. The physician, who wishes to employ it, has no occasion to surround himself with an apparatus, the sight of which alarms the sick, who are naturally timid persons; while this is an indispensable attendant on the application of the moxa.

In a word, acupuncturation produces in its consequences, neither pain, accident,* nor cicatrix.

At the present moment, when this operation is practised in nearly all the hospitals of Paris, its good effects will be easily verified; and if, every where, the same results have not been obtained, I am well satisfied, that this ought to be attributed to differences in the cases, in which it has been employed, and, perhaps, still more to a want of perseverance on the part of the physicians, who have practised it. M. Julius Cloquet daily obtains very remarkable results, by attacking pains constantly as they reappear, and by allowing

* At the hospital of St. Louis, where acupuncturation has been practised upon more than four hundred patients, not a single accident has occurred, with the exception of syncopes, of which I have already spoken. M. Cloquet considers, according to his observations, that about a thirtieth of the patients are affected by them.

the needles to remain in the part affected, for five, six, seven, or eight days, in cases, in which their application for several hours had not a sufficiently marked effect. It is to acupuncturation, performed in this manner, that he has applied the epithet *persistent*.

Observation multiplying to a great extent, the general opinion will soon be settled on the subject of this remedy.

It may be proper to remark, that, if, up to this moment, acupuncturation has been employed, in an exclusive manner, in the treatment of diseases, while its good effects have thus been well demonstrated, we ought not to neglect to associate with it as auxiliaries, those measures, whose good effects have been verified in common practice. Thus, for example, in chronic ophthalmia, at the same time, that we allow the needles to remain in the temporal regions, we ought not to neglect the use of resolutive collyria.

What I have here said in regard to ophthalmia is applicable to a great variety of diseases.

But what are the accidents that acupuncturation may cause? I have only observed one, and as yet it is rare; namely, the faintings, of which instances are given in the foregoing cases. As to the pain, more or less acute, which succeeds or attends the operation, it cannot reasonably be called an accident. Some, how-

ever, have been more vaguely mentioned. But it is probable, that the authors of these statements have not ascertained their truth by personal observation, as I have reason to believe on sufficient evidence.

If I had designed merely to sound the praises of acupuncturation, I should have given a series of cases all crowned with success, and, without doubt, I would not have been deficient in facts; but my object has been to present a picture, which might be the representation of truth.

Quidquid verum et bonum rogo.